

3/22/74

Dear Diane,

The easiest part of your letter of the 16th and 18th to answer is your question, has the account of your latest troubles blown my mind. The answer is that by now nothing from or about you does.

I guess if the fever from pneumonia gets high enough it can blow the mind, though.

Even yours?

I have heard of the Skinner book but I've not read it.

In fact, I'm so busy I hardly have any time for reading, not nearly enough for what I should read. So I don't get to read much that I should. Stuff with which I work. I'm just filing much of it.

You did not say why in your opinion I should read Beyond Freedom and Dignity.

There is a mystifying contradiction in what you write. You seem to have a sentence without a trial (which you have not reported) and a sentence that is self-extending.

Most people get tried first.

You haven't even told me what was laid on you.

I would rather hear from you. I can learn for myself.

When I think of this and wonder why you do not, the one thing that seems to make sense is that you are ashamed.

Do I know you - and about you - less than I think I do? Are you ashamed to tell me? Old friends like us, after all we've been through together, like the Quarter and Marge and Fiats and St. Tamany's. Even the #Bleau?

My, my. I guess there are no ties that bond any more!

What is the N.O. deal on which you'll be called? Anything that would interest me (as though anything about you wouldn't!)?

It is possible that my work may take me near you soon. Would you like to see me? If you would, let me know. Also to whom I'd have to speak there. I would like a long talk with you.

I would also like to know the scoop first, so all the time won't be taken up with that and so that it will not be a distraction.

It is not certain but it is possible. Any time beginning a little more than a week from now. If I do get into that area, it will not be for long. So I'd also have to know the hours and the by-laws and the possibility of special dispensations when such desperate characters are involved.

If you want to see me, let me know what you are charged with so I can get past that. Not whether you are guilty or innocent. You realize that charges are public anyway, which really makes me wonder why all the secrecy.

The grand jury bit, of course, is provocative and I am curious about it.

The papers here have reported nothing about it but I understand that Jim's income-tax trial has started. I've heard that no local lawyer would represent Pershing so the judge brought in from another area appointed a non-member of the local bar who just happened to be a spectator to look out for his interests that day.

Anything can happen in the Crescent! And does, doesn't it?

Sincerely,

16 March 1974
Isolation

Dear Harold,

Indeed, I did get your letter, I haven't answered it before now because I've been mentally ill with pneumonia. No bull shit - my fever just broke Thursday. The Doctor here claims it was pneumonia, that diagnosis satisfied me as I was a hell of a sick mensch.

Now for some overdue news: I'm a trustee - in charge of the laundry room. Gotta stay here in jail another 2 years. Am going to be taking correspondence courses through Houston Community College, and vocational rehabilitation - Gotta go testify before a Federal Grand Jury in New Orleans but plan to take the 5th. -

And am staying in isolation because I want to - Got a new case against me too - aggravated assault against a police officer (I hit a Top Badge upside his head with a plate of grits) - My parents are coming to Houston to yell at me some more, - and I had another birthday in here.

Is your mind blown yet? No? You're getting used to me then Harold. That ain't like you. That's O.K. - we got a long two years ahead of us. heh! heh!

I just got finished writing poor "hotshot" (my lawyer) a decent letter for a change. Poor dude, I really keep him busy especially since I now have nine cases against me. He's really going to earn his \$250.00 fee off of me huh? He says I give him ulcers.

I've got a book for you to read, BEYOND FREEDOM AND DIGNITY, by B. F. SKINNER, if you haven't read it - do.

18 March 1974

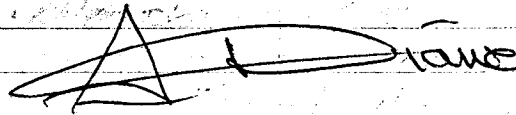
Dear Harold,

Got told today I'll have to be stuck here 3 instead of 2 more years, isn't that a real mother fucker.

I picked up some commissary money designing T-shirts and posters in here, I'm getting pretty good at it now. It also gives me something to do with my spare time around this ol' dungeon, I do a lot of Mickey Mouse stuff so now the police call me Walt Dizzy. I never do the same design twice so each one of them is a true original.

That last letter you sent me left me somewhat spellbound. In other words - you blew my mind. I'm still thinking on what all you said so won't offer any comments at this time.

Listen ol' buddy, that theraizine shot the nurse gave me, for my nerves is hitting me like dynamite right now so I'd better sign off. Write again soon.

 Dave

Diane Therese Turner
4th Floor - Isolation
P.O. Box 24
Houston, Texas 77002



HAROLD WEISBERG
ROUTE #8
FREDERICK
MARYLAND 21701